

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-22 are pending in this application and claims 12 and 16 are withdrawn. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1, 13, and 14 are amended and claim 10 is canceled. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification because the title is not descriptive. The title is amended to overcome the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Tomita (JP 6-67102); claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tomita in view of Mogi (U.S. Patent No. 5,490,158); claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tomita in view of Yanagisawa (JP 2000-249957); claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tomita in view of Itabashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,469,772); and claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tomita in view of Yanagisawa and in further view of Mogi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,992,690).

Applicants gratefully appreciate the indication that claims 10, 13-15, and 17-22 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 10, and claim 10 is canceled. Thus, for at least these reasons, independent claim 1, and its dependent claims, is patentable over a combination of the applied references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

In response to a Restriction Requirement, claims 12 and 16 were withdrawn; however, in light of the now allowable claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that dependent claims 12 and 16 be rejoined and similarly allowed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9 and 11-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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